

Whereas, Patricia and Jim declared their love in a ceremony before God, family and friends in Bridgeport, Ohio;

Whereas, 2000 will mark 35 years of sharing, loving, working together and raising a family of two children;

Whereas, may Patricia and Jim be blessed with all the happiness and love that two can share and may their love grow with each passing year;

THEREFORE: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Glovers' on their 35th anniversary. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing this special couple many more years of happiness together.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of a fiscally responsible federal budget.

I have been very consistent in what I believe we should be doing with our federal budget and projected surplus.

First, we need to pay down the \$3.7 trillion national debt. Last year, we paid \$230 billion in interest on the debt—that's almost the size of the Defense budget. Families use times of plenty to pay off debt first—the government should as well. We owe it to our children to get rid of this burden.

We must shore up Social Security and modernize Medicare. Social Security faces a huge challenge with the coming retirement of baby boomers and we must prepare for that now. Providing prescription drug coverage, and increasing payments to Medicare HMO's and hospitals will ensure that central coast seniors have the quality health care they deserve.

We must also make critical investments in education, health care, defense, and veteran's programs. Schools on the central coast are overcrowded, putting an extra burden on our teachers and potentially shortchanging our kids. Millions of Americans lack health insurance and this adds to overall health care costs and human misery. Our troops are stretched too thin and we have neglected our veterans' needs for far too long.

And, of course, we must enact some commonsense tax reform. Fixing the marriage penalty, ending the Social Security earnings limit, lifting the estate tax burden from small businesses and family farms—these are all reforms we can accomplish this year.

To meet these goals I will be supporting the alternative budget presented by Mr. SPRATT. While it does not fully reflect all my goals, it comes closest. And it clearly is superior to the leadership plan.

This mainstream budget puts \$364 billion of the non-Social Security surplus toward paying

down the debt. The leadership bill puts none of the non-Social Security surplus into debt reduction and may even begin spending the Social Security surplus once again. The mainstream proposal will extend Medicare and Social Security solvency by at least 10 and 15 years, respectively. The leadership bill does not provide the necessary safety net for the future generations of seniors.

The budget I support provides for prescription drug coverage for all our seniors. The leadership bill is silent on who is covered. The Spratt proposal puts \$1 billion more into law enforcement than the leadership bill. And this budget allows for responsible increases funding for education, science and medical research and development to insure that we provide our kids with all the opportunities they deserve. The leadership proposal freezes funding for 5 years for all higher education assistance, meaning fewer Pell grants and Head Start slots for our kids. Finally, this mainstream budget provides for critical funding for energy research and conservation programs. The leadership bill, even in these times of high gas prices, actually cuts these budgets.

Simply put, Mr. Chairman, the budget I support allows us to continue on a path of fiscal responsibility, while continuing to meet the future challenges that face our society.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels; for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005:

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Chairman, I applaud my colleagues on the House Budget Committee for their hard work in crafting a fiscal year 2001 budget which all Americans can embrace today. Chairman KASICH has shown vision and leadership in guiding the Congress out of the Democrat-led forty year period of budget deficits and into the Republican era of budget surpluses.

I also would like to give credit to Chairman KASICH for his efforts to publish a summary of where the federal government stands now on combating government waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement. Sadly, this document (Reviving The Reform Agenda) shows how much reform is still needed in agencies and programs throughout the federal government from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to various federal housing programs. As a small businessman, I was appalled to read that the most recent audits (fiscal year 1998) showed six major agencies could not provide financial statements that reliably account for the hundreds of billions of dollars they spent. Put another way, these agencies failed to produce the kinds of financial records that the government requires of every private-sector company

that trades its stock publicly. The Budget Committee majority staff point out that the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the inspectors general (IG) of the various agencies believe taxpayers' hard-earned dollars have been wasted and, as a result, beneficiaries of too many federal programs have been deprived of the funding which Congress intended them to receive.

I believe it is important to point to Reviving The Reform Agenda in defense of Republicans' successful push last year for a 0.38 percent across-the-board cut in the fiscal year 2000 spending bills. And, today, as our colleagues across the aisle criticize the fiscal year 2001 Republican budget which will keep spending to about half the rate of inflation, we need to highlight the fact that government waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement still exists. Why should we ask our constituents to support the Clinton-Gore administration budget which calls for spending \$1.3 trillion on bigger government over the next decade when we are having a hard time managing effectively current programs and spending levels?

It is important to note that the fiscal year 2001 Republican budget proposal keeps a lid on runaway federal spending while devoting the entire Social Security surplus, totaling \$166 billion in fiscal year 2001, to a lock box to prevent it from being used to finance other government programs. And, it proposes a \$40 billion reserve fund to be used to reform Medicare and provide prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries who need it.

In addition, the Republican budget proposal contains \$150 billion in tax relief over five years, including the elimination of the marriage penalty. It also contains tax relief for small businesses, phases out the estate of "death" tax, establishes tax incentives for educational assistance and tax relief associated with pending health care reform legislation.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the Republican budget increases spending for education, national defense, transportation and veterans programs. In response to many of my constituents' concerns, it also decreases foreign aid expenditures. I believe this budget does it all. I hope my Republican colleagues will continue to spearhead a campaign of reform, beginning with the adoption of the fiscally responsible Republican budget.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.